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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,589	03/29/2004	Joachim Mathes	3826 1038US	9487

7590 06/21/2006
Dreiss, Fuhlendorf, Steimle & Becker
Postfach 10 37 62
Stuttgart, D-70032
GERMANY

EXAMINER

RAO, ANAND SHASHIKANT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2621	

DATE MAILED: 06/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/810,589

Applicant(s)

MATHES ET AL.

Examiner

Andy S. Rao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/7/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hill.

Hill discloses an optical detection system for vehicles (Hill: figure 1), comprising: a camera optics disposed on the vehicle (Hill: column 4, lines 60-65); a control device communicating with said camera optics for controlling at least one of a focus and an image frame of said camera optics (Hill: column 6, lines 10-30); and a signal transmitter for generating and communicating signals to said control device (Hill: column 6, lines 30-52), wherein said camera optics is controlled in dependence on said signals (Hill: column 8, lines 25-51), as in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Hill discloses wherein the vehicle is a motor vehicle (Hill: column 4, lines 40-47), as in the claim.

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Regarding claim 3, Hill discloses wherein said signal transmitter comprises sensors disposed on the vehicle to detect objects in a vicinity of the vehicle (Hill: column 5, lines 30-35 and 53-57), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 4, Hill discloses wherein said sensors are part of at least one of a parking assistance system, a distance control system, a lane deviation warning system, a night vision system, and a system for early detection of accident situations (Hill: column 5, lines 55-65), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 5, Hill discloses wherein said sensors are at least one of ultrasonic, radar, and infrared sensors (Hill: column 5, lines 10-15), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 6, Hill discloses wherein said signal transmitter comprises a pattern or image detection device .

Regarding claim 7, Hill discloses a display unit coupled to at least one of said camera optics and said control device (Hill: figure 5), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 8, Hill discloses wherein said camera optics is disposed in a rear region of the vehicle (Hill: column 4, lines 64-66), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 9, Hill discloses wherein said camera optics is disposed in a front region of the vehicle (Hill: column 5, lines 50-55), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 10, Hill wherein said camera optics can be pivoted about and/or displaced along one or more device axes thereof (Hill: column 5, lines 5-15), as in the claim.

Hill discloses a control device in an optical detection system for vehicles (Hill: figure 1), the optical detection system having a camera optics disposed on the vehicle (Hill: column 4, lines 60-65) and a signal transmitter for generating and communicating signals to the control device

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(Hill: column 6, lines 30-52), with the camera optics being controlled in dependence on said signals (Hill: column 8, lines 25-51), wherein the control device comprises means for communicating with the camera optics to control at least one of a focus and an image frame of the camera optics (Hill: column 5, lines 10-18), as in claim 11.

Regarding claim 12, Hill discloses wherein, when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, said focus of said camera optics is reduced such that said image frame is enlarged to detect the entire object or substantial parts thereof (Hill: column 7, lines 45-55), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 13, Hill discloses wherein when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, the focus of the camera optics is reduced such that the image frame is enlarged to detect the entire object or substantial parts thereof (Hill: column 10, lines 45-67), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 14, Hill discloses when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, said camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced to permit detection of the entire object or of substantial parts thereof (Hill: column 10, lines 1-20), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 15, Hill discloses wherein when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, the camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced to permit detection of the entire object or of substantial parts thereof (Hill: column 10, lines 1-20), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 16, Hill discloses wherein, when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, said focus of said camera optics is reduced and said camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced (Hill: column 6, lines 35-50), as in the claim.

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Regarding claim 17, Hill discloses wherein, when the vehicles approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, the focus of the camera optics is reduced and the camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced (Hill: column 6, lines 35-50), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 18, Hill discloses wherein said focus and/or said image frame of said camera optics is controlled in dependence on said signals generated by said signal transmitter (Hill: column 5, lines 50-64), as in the claim.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schofield discloses a rearview vision system.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (571)-272-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

asr
June 19, 2006

ANDY RAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

